# BBC Learning English
# Words in the News
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*Belgian city goes veggie*

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*The Belgian city of Ghent is about to become the first in the world to go vegetarian at least once a week. Starting tomorrow, there'll be a regular weekly meatless day, in recognition of the impact that livestock has on the environment. From Brussels, here's Chris Mason:*

According to the United Nations, **livestock** is responsible for nearly a fifth of **global greenhouse gas emissions**, so in Ghent, one day a week from now will be known as **'veggie** day'.

Public officials and politicians will be the first **to give up** meat for a day; schoolchildren will **follow suit** in September. It's hoped the move will cut Ghent's **carbon footprint** and help **tackle obesity**.

Around ninety thousand so called '**veggie** street maps' are now being printed to help people find the city's **vegetarian eateries**.

Chris Mason, BBC News, Brussels

**Vocabulary and definitions**

| livestock | farm animals (e.g. cows or sheep) and birds (e.g. chickens) |
|---|---|
| **global greenhouse gas emissions** | the amount of harmful gases produced across the world that cause an increase in the average temperature of the earth's atmosphere, leading to climate change |
| **veggie** | informal for 'vegetarian' |
| **to give up** | here, to stop eating; generally, if you **give up** something, or doing something, you stop having or doing it |
| **follow suit** | do the same |
| **carbon footprint** | your **carbon footprint** is the amount of polluting carbon substances released into the atmosphere as a result of what you do (e.g. drive a car etc.) |
| **tackle obesity** | here, make more people who are overweight to try to lose weight |
| **vegetarian eateries** | restaurants, cafes, canteens and other food-serving outlets where only non-meat food is offered |

**More on this story:** http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/8046970.stm

**Read and listen to the story and the vocabulary online:**

http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/language/wordsinthenews/2009/05/090513_witn_veggie_city.shtml